

STATE OF MISSOURI

ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH
ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOR YEARS ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1923
AND NOVEMBER 30, 1924.

COMMISSIONERS:

THOMAS J. BROWN, Chairman
EDWIN J. BEAN
A. J. O'REILLY
R. H. MUSSER

JEFFERSON CITY, 1924

MISSOURI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

Commissioners:

THOMAS J. BROWN, Charleston, Chairman,
EDWIN J. BEAN, DeSoto,
A. J. O'REILLY, St. Louis,
RICHARD H. MUSSER, Plattsburg.

General Office:

JAMES P. PAINTER, Milan, Secretary,
JOHN T. SANDISON, Huntsville, Reporter of Opinions,
MARY FIDDLER, Salisbury, Executive Clerk,
KATHERYNE MANSUR, Jefferson City, File Clerk,
THELYN KATZER, Jefferson City, Stenographer.

Legal Department:

L. H. BREUER, Rolla, General Counsel,
FRANK E. ATWOOD, Carrollton, Assistant General Counsel,
THELMA GOODRICK, St. Louis, Stenographer.

Engineering Department:

J. L. HARROP, Jefferson City, Chief Engineer,
W. K. FREUDENBERGER, Columbia, Assistant Engineer,
E. E. TOWLES, Jefferson City, Assistant Engineer,
B. F. SCHABERG, St. Louis, Assistant Engineer,
F. M. PLAKE, Kansas City, Assistant Engineer,
LUCIAN A. EATON, JR., Kansas City, Assistant Engineer,
J. E. FLANDERS, Paris, Assistant Engineer,
MARGUERITE GILLOGLY, Warsaw, Stenographer.

Railroad Department:

V. E. SMART, Jefferson City, Chief Rate Expert,
ROXANNA HILL, Jefferson City, Stenographer.

Accounting Department:

T. J. MURPHY, St. Louis, Chief Accountant,
H. B. LYSAGHT, St. Joseph, Assistant Accountant,
A. L. HOULEHAN, St. Louis, Assistant Accountant,
GEO. B. COLEMAN, St. Louis, Assistant Accountant,
H. W. ROSS, St. Louis, Assistant Accountant,
C. M. COBLE, Kansas City, Assistant Accountant,
MARGARET MCGEE, Poplar Bluff, Stenographer.

Electric Light, Gas, Heat and Water Department:

L. W. HELMREICH, Boonville, Chief Electric and Mechanical Engineer,
RUTH HAMMOND, Jefferson City, Stenographer.

Telephone and Telegraph Department:

W. W. JOHNSON, Kansas City, Telephone Expert,
EDITH HAMMEN, Jefferson City, Stenographer.

Official Commission Reporters:

EDITH WEST, Springfield,
EUGENE L. MCGEE, Poplar Bluff.

OSCAR MOORE, Jefferson City, Janitor,
JAMES VAN PELT, Joplin, Janitor.

GENERAL OFFICES: First Floor Capitol Building, Jefferson City,
Mo.



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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

STATE OF MISSOURI

Public Service Commission.

Jefferson City, Mo., December 1, 1924.

To His Excellency,
ARTHUR M. HYDE,
Governor of Missouri.

Dear Sir: —

I have the honor to transmit herewith the Eleventh and Twelfth Annual Reports of the Public Service Commission for the twenty-five months, beginning October 1, 1922, and ending November 30, 1924.

Very respectfully yours,

T. J. BROWN, Chairman.

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STATE OF MISSOURI

ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Statement by the Commission:

The personnel of the Public Service Commission underwent several changes during the years 1923 and 1924. Commissioner Hugh McIndoe, who had been appointed for the period of May 1, 1921, to April 15, 1925, died on May 28, 1923. Richard H. Musser of Plattsburg, Clinton County, was appointed to succeed him. Chairman John A. Kurtz, who had served as a Commissioner since December 1, 1920, and as Chairman since May 1, 1921, died on June 17, 1923. He was succeeded by Merrill E. Otis, of St. Joseph, Buchanan County. On April 15, 1923, the term of Commissioner Noah W. Simpson expired, and Thomas J. Brown of Charleston, Mississippi County, was appointed for a term ending April 15, 1929. Chairman Merrill E. Otis resigned on August 15, 1924, and Commissioner Thomas J. Brown was named Chairman. As yet the vacancy caused by the resignation of Chairman Otis has not been filled, and only two of the present Commissioners, Edwin J. Bean of DeSoto, Jefferson County, and Andrew J. O'Reilly of the City of St. Louis, were members of the Commission at the time of the last report.

The Commission's outstanding accomplishment during the Biennial period was a series of rate reductions secured, after conferences (excepting as to one reduction) held between the Commission and various utilities operating in the State. A total saving to consumers approximating \$1,219,000.00 has thereby been effected. These reductions benefited the consumers in one hundred and forty-eight towns and cities in Missouri.

During the same period increases were granted to not more than eight small utilities (telephone companies with one exception), the total amount of all of which increases for a year's time was less than \$12,000.00. In other words, the net saving to the people of the State, by reason of the Commission's activity in regard to rates alone, exceeds \$1,200,000.00. This does not

include railroad rate reductions amounting in the aggregate to several hundred thousand dollars. Most of the reductions were voluntarily made by the utility concerned upon request of the Commission, after a conference in which the Commission laid before the officers of the utility the facts concerning its valuation and income. In each case the movement for reduction was initiated, not by the locality or localities affected, but by the Commission itself. In each case, moreover, the public received the immediate benefit of the reduction, whereas, had the Commission proceeded by instituting proceedings and conducting hearings, the relief sought in each case, necessarily, would have been delayed and if appeals were taken, as often would have happened, the relief would have been postponed in each instance for a period of time varying from six months to several years.

The saving to the people just described, while the most tangible and therefore the most easily comprehended of the service of the Commission to the State, is by no means to be considered the chief service the Commission has rendered during the period of time covered by this report.

The cost of service to the public is, of course, important, but the quality of service is equally important. When it is considered that at the present time, particularly in the large cities, almost the very existence and certainly the comfort and convenience of the average family is dependent upon the service rendered by the public utilities, it is easy to realize the tremendous importance of having some governmental agency with power to regulate the quality of service and to compel the continuity thereof and fair dealing between the utility and the consumer in connection therewith. The function is discharged solely by the Public Service Commission in this State. The number of complaints that are filed, the number of decisions and orders made, do not even remotely indicate the Commission's importance to the people in this respect. The mere fact that it exists, that it has this function to discharge and that it is invested with the authority to enforce its decisions and orders makes it a compelling force for first class utility service. While the self-interest of the utility company should be sufficiently potent to, and usually does, operate to secure efficient service and courteous dealing with its consumers, the existence of a forum where the humblest citizen may, without any expense to himself, present any complaint he has against any public utility company that serves or should serve him, with the assurance that his complaint will

have immediate and careful attention, is a strong factor in maintaining the highest quality of service at all times.

In this connection, it has been the earnest endeavor of the Commission during the past two years to fully acquaint the people of the State with the right which any citizen has to file a complaint relative to poor service or discourteous treatment of any kind with the Commission and to acquaint them, also, with the fact that the Commission is not only willing but anxious to discharge this function thoroughly and speedily. Few days pass without the adjustment of some misunderstanding between a public utility and one of its patrons.

In addition to its jurisdiction over rates and service, the Commission is charged with the important duty of supervising all stock and security issues of public utilities in the State. No public utility corporation can issue bonds, notes or stock without first having the consent and approval of the Commission. Before the consent is given in any case, the Commission thoroughly investigates the financial condition of the applicant Company to determine whether applicant has property and earnings to support the securities on stock to be issued. The use of the cash proceeds from the sale of stocks and bonds is limited to items of property chargeable to capital account, in other words, for additions and betterments to property, and the utilities are required to furnish detailed reports showing the actual disposition of the proceeds of these issues. The purpose of this requirement of the law is to prevent over-capitalization and its attendant evils.

During the twenty-five months covered by this report, the Commission authorized the issue of bonds, notes and other evidence of indebtedness to the value of \$125,061,977.00. During the same period, it authorized the issue of stock in the par amount of \$25,715,520.00. In addition to this stock, the Commission has authorized the issue of 702,750 shares of no par value stock, as permitted by an Act of the legislature passed in 1923 (Laws of 1923, page 362). Had these shares of no par value stock been issued as par value stock at the customary \$100.00, it would have had a value of \$70,275,000.00, which, added to the par value stock authorized makes approximately \$100,000,000.00 of stock issues authorized during the biennial period. A detailed statement of the stock, bond and note issue authorized will be found in the report of the Department of Statistics and Accounts, in this volume.

Since the last biennial report there have been filed with the Commission 755 formal cases, of which number 104 are complaints against common carriers; 87 are complaints against utilities other than common carriers; 91 are applications for Certificates of Convenience and Necessity, 392 are miscellaneous complaints and applications; and 95 are applications for authority to issue Stocks and Bonds. Formal complaints, generally, concern matters of major importance in which the parties are represented by counsel, and these complaints usually involve investigations, hearings, reports and orders. Practically all of these cases have been disposed of, consequently the Commission is able to promptly set for hearing any new case that is filed and dispose of it within two to three weeks from date of filing.

During the period, there have been 616 informal complaints filed with the Commission, of which 551 have been disposed of, leaving 65 still pending. Informal cases, generally speaking, are those concerning minor matters in which the parties are not represented by counsel. These complaints are usually settled by compromise or by the parties at fault voluntarily, after suggestion by the Commission, removing the cause for the complaint.

The reports of the separate departments of the Commission are hereto appended and made a part of this report.

HISTORICAL.

Appointments—Time of Service of each Commissioner— Membership of the Commission to November 1, 1924.

The law creating the Missouri Public Service Commission was introduced in the legislature by Senator William G. Busby, of Carroll County, and became effective April 15, 1913. By its provisions the Commission shall consist of five (5) members to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, one of whom shall be designated by the Governor to be Chairman of the Commission. One of said Commissioners shall hold office for two years, two shall hold office for four years and two shall hold office for six years; that upon the expiration of each of said terms each Commissioner thereafter appointed shall hold office for a term of six years from the beginning of their terms. Vacancies in said Commission shall be filled by the Governor for the unexpired term.

Effective April 15, 1913, there were appointed:

FRANK A. WIGHTMAN, railroad expert, of Monett, Mo., for a term of two years, ended April 15, 1915.

JOHN KENNISH, lawyer, of Kansas City, Mo., for a term of four years, ended April 15, 1917.

HOWARD B. SHAW, electrical engineer, of Columbia, Mo., for a term of four years, ended April 15, 1917.

JOHN M. ATKINSON, lawyer, Chairman, of Doniphan, Mo., for a term of six years, ended April 15, 1919.

WILLIAM F. WOERNER, lawyer, of St. Louis, Mo., effective July 3, 1913, for a term ending April 15, 1919.

WILLIAM F. WOERNER, resigned, effective November 18, 1914; and EDWIN J. BEAN, lawyer, of DeSoto, Mo., effective November 19, 1914, was appointed for the unexpired term ending April 15, 1919.

FRANK A. WIGHTMAN, resigned, effective April 24, 1915; and

EUGENE McQUILLIN, lawyer, of St. Louis, Mo., effective April 24, 1915, was appointed for a term ending April 15, 1921.

JOHN M. ATKINSON, Chairman, resigned, effective May 1, 1916; and

WILLIAM G. BUSBY, lawyer, of Carrollton, Mo., effective May 1, 1916, was appointed for the unexpired term, ending April 15, 1919, and named Chairman of the Commission.

EUGENE McQUILLIN, resigned, effective February 21, 1917; and

*DAVID E. BLAIR, lawyer, of Joplin, Mo., effective February 26, 1917, was appointed for the unexpired term, ending April 15, 1921. Resigned August 23, 1920, effective immediately.

NOAH W. SIMPSON, lawyer, of LaBelle, Mo., effective April 15, 1917, was appointed for a term ending April 15, 1923, vice John Kennish, whose term had expired.

EDWARD FLAD, civil engineer, of St. Louis, Mo., effective April 15, 1917, was appointed for a term ending April 15, 1923, vice Howard B. Shaw, whose term had expired. Resigned, effective October 11, 1921.

A. J. O'REILLY, civil engineer, of St. Louis, Mo., effective October 11, 1921, was appointed for the unexpired term ending April 15, 1923.

JOHN KENNISH, lawyer, of Kansas City, Mo., effective August 23, 1920, was appointed for the unexpired term ending April 15, 1921. Resigned, effective December 1, 1920; and

JOHN A. KURTZ, lawyer, of Kansas City, Mo., effective December 1, 1920, was appointed for the unexpired term ending April 15, 1921. May 1, 1921, was appointed for a full term of six years ending April 15, 1927, and named Chairman of the Commission, vice William G. Busby, resigned. Died June 17, 1923; and

MERRILL E. OTIS, lawyer, of St. Joseph, Mo., effective June 23, 1923, was appointed for the unexpired term ending April 15, 1927, and named as Chairman of the Commission. Resigned, effective August 15, 1924.

WILLIAM G. BUSBY, Chairman, resigned, effective May 1, 1921; and

HUGH McINDOE, lawyer, of Joplin, Mo., was appointed for the unexpired term, ending April 15, 1925. Died May 28, 1923; and

RICHARD H. MUSSER, lawyer, of Plattsburg, Mo., effective June 16, 1923, was appointed for the unexpired term ending April 15, 1925.

THOMAS J. BROWN, lawyer, of Charleston, Mo., effective June 13, 1923, was appointed for a term ending April 15, 1929, vice Noah W. Simpson, whose term had expired April 15, 1923. Named Chairman of the Commission, effective August 30, 1924, to succeed Merrill E. Otis, Chairman, resigned, effective August 15, 1924.

Membership of the Commission for the period of time named:

From April 15, 1913, to July 3, 1913:

JOHN M. ATKINSON, Chairman,
JOHN KENNISH,
HOWARD B. SHAW,
FRANK A. WIGHTMAN.

From July 3, 1913, to November 18, 1914:

JOHN M. ATKINSON, Chairman,
JOHN KENNISH,
HOWARD B. SHAW,
FRANK A. WIGHTMAN,
WILLIAM E. WOERNER.

From November 18, 1914, to April 24, 1915:

JOHN M. ATKINSON, Chairman,
JOHN KENNISH,
HOWARD B. SHAW,
FRANK A. WIGHTMAN,
EDWIN J. BEAN.

From April 24, 1915, to May 1, 1916:

JOHN M. ATKINSON, Chairman,
JOHN KENNISH,
HOWARD B. SHAW,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
EUGENE McQUILLIN.

From May 1, 1916, to February 21, 1917:

WILLIAM G. BUSBY, Chairman,
JOHN KENNISH,
HOWARD B. SHAW,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
EUGENE McQUILLIN.

From February 21, 1917, to February 26, 1917:

WILLIAM G. BUSBY, Chairman,
JOHN KENNISH,
HOWARD B. SHAW,
EDWIN J. BEAN.

From February 26, 1917, to April 15, 1917:

WILLIAM G. BUSBY, Chairman,
JOHN KENNISH,
HOWARD B. SHAW,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
DAVID E. BLAIR.

From April 15, 1917, to August 23, 1920:

WILLIAM G. BUSBY, Chairman,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
DAVID E. BLAIR,
NOAH W. SIMPSON,
EDWARD FLAD.

From August 23, 1920, to December 1, 1920:

WILLIAM G. BUSBY, Chairman,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
NOAH W. SIMPSON,
EDWARD FLAD,
JOHN KENNISH.

From December 1, 1920, to May 1, 1921:

WILLIAM G. BUSBY, Chairman,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
NOAH W. SIMPSON,
EDWARD FLAD,
JOHN A. KURTZ.

From May 1, 1921, to October 11, 1921:

JOHN A. KURTZ, Chairman,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
NOAH W. SIMPSON,
EDWARD FLAD,
HUGH MCINDOE.

From October 11, 1921, to April 15, 1923:

JOHN A. KURTZ, Chairman,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
NOAH W. SIMPSON,
HUGH MCINDOE,
A. J. O'REILLY.

From April 15, 1923, to June 13, 1923:

JOHN A. KURTZ, Chairman,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
HUGH MCINDOE,
A. J. O'REILLY.

From June 13, 1923, to June 16, 1923:

JOHN A. KURTZ, Chairman,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
A. J. O'REILLY,
THOMAS J. BROWN.

From June 16, 1923, to June 17, 1923:

JOHN A. KURTZ, Chairman,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
A. J. O'REILLY,
THOMAS J. BROWN,
RICHARD H. MUSSER.

From June 17, 1923, to June 23, 1923:

EDWIN J. BEAN,
A. J. O'REILLY,
THOMAS J. BROWN,
RICHARD H. MUSSER.

From June 23, 1923, to August 15, 1924:

MERRILL E. OTIS, Chairman,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
A. J. O'REILLY,
THOMAS J. BROWN,
RICHARD H. MUSSER.

From August 15, 1924, to November 30, 1924:

THOMAS J. BROWN, Chairman,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
A. J. O'REILLY,
RICHARD H. MUSSER.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT.

This Department, constituted as heretofore, consists of the General Counsel and Assistant Counsel and one stenographer.

The law requires counsel to the Commission to possess the same qualifications as Judges of the Supreme Court, and makes it the duty "to represent and appear for the Commission in all actions and proceedings involving any action under this or any other law or under or in reference to any act, order, decision or proceeding of the Commission, and * * to intervene * * * in any action or proceeding in which any such question is involved; to commence and prosecute in the name of the State all actions and proceedings authorized by law and directed or authorized by the Commission * * *; to advise the Commission or any Commissioner when so required in regard to all matters in connection with the power and duties of the Commission and the members thereof; and generally to perform all duties and services

as attorney and counsel to the Commission, which the Commission may reasonably require of him."

In addition to these general requirements, the law specifically requires that where a railroad company, gas, electric or water company or telegraph or telephone company is failing or omitting or about to fail or omit to do the things required of it by law or order of the Commission, the Commission's counsel shall be directed to proceed in a summary manner in any Circuit Court in the State, for the purpose of having such violations or threatened violations prevented. It is further, by law, made the duty of counsel to institute all actions to recover penalties and forfeitures provided for under the Public Service Commission Law.

The foregoing requirements, when translated into action, have meant for the past two years that this Department has handled a large volume of cases in the courts, both State and Federal. A large number of these cases were appeals taken by the utility affected, from an order of the Commission, and the cases were necessarily heard in both the Circuit and Supreme Court of the State. Some of them went to the Supreme Court of the United States on constitutional questions.

The Federal Court cases, in the main, were those growing out of orders rendered by the Commission in rates cases, either refusing increased rates applied for by the utilities, or reducing those already charged by them, which, such utilities contended were so low as not to allow a reasonable return upon the property devoted to the public use, and therefore, violative of the Constitution of the United States and the State of Missouri, in that such orders deprived them of their property without due process of law; and the proceedings were, by the utilities, instituted in the Federal Courts to enjoin this Commission from enforcing its orders fixing rates and valuations.

Accordingly, this Department has been required to defend the orders and acts of the Commission in Court proceedings instituted by the utilities in various Circuit Courts of the State, the Supreme Court of the State, United States District Court and the Supreme Court of the United States.

Comparatively all of these cases were of paramount importance to the public, involving as they did, literally millions of dollars in rates and charges in question, either made or sought to be made by the utilities.

In addition to a large number of cases finally disposed of in the various courts during the past two years, the Commission

at the present time has pending two cases in the Supreme Court of the United States, twelve in the United States District Court, twelve in the Missouri Supreme Court and two in Circuit Courts. These numbers are materially less than the actual number of cases involved, for in some instances cases of similar character have been combined for trial, notably, what we set down as one of the cases (Union Electric Company) in the Supreme Court is, in reality, a combination of eighteen cases.

Comparatively all Commission cases have required extensive preparation, due largely to their technical character and various Constitutional and other questions raised and in the further fact that, in most instances, the cases involved railroads and other strong utilities which are represented by able attorneys, engineers and accountants, all experts in their line.

In addition to court duties, the Commission has been required constantly to call upon the Department for legal opinions involving various matters and proceedings and has, in various instances, by direction of the Commission and upon proper order, instituted various proceedings upon the Commission's own motion and appeared at the hearing thereof and prosecuted such proceedings.

All requests from the public for legal information are referred to this Department for attention, and upon request a large number of complaints have been prepared in behalf of the public for the purpose of instituting various proceedings before the Commission.

In addition to all other general duties, members of the Department, when required, have acted as Special Examiners for the Commission in the taking of testimony in cases when the Commission's docket was congested to such an extent that such action was necessary to prevent delays.

The last General Assembly further enlarged the duties of this Department by, in substance, making it the further duty of this Department, "to represent the public in all rate hearings before the Commission at its office, and he shall, upon request, give to the public and any municipality, advice and opinions as to their rights under the Public Service Commission Act and the legal methods and procedure for obtaining same."

In obedience to this requirement, this Department has appeared in behalf of the public in all rate cases before the Commission and has given advice at all times when requested and

prepared necessary complaints in behalf of the public at all times when requested.

The wide and varied demands upon this Department, in addition to more formidable court duties in so much important litigation, has made this Department for the past year a busy one.

The following shows the nature of the proceedings had in the various suits begun, ending or disposed of during the period beginning October 1, 1922, and ending December 1, 1924, and which have been in charge of this department.

1. Webb City & Cartersville Water Case (Federal Court):

At the time of the last report, this case was pending upon an interlocutory injunction, granted by the United States District Court, enjoining the Commission from enforcing certain orders it had made, fixing rates for water in Webb City and Cartersville, and from interfering with the Company in putting in a certain schedule of rates. The case came on for a final hearing at Jefferson City at the March term, 1921, of the United States District Court. Upon a partial hearing of the case, the Court declined to proceed further at that time and made an order directing the Water Company to renew its application to the Commission to fix rates. The Company did so, and having received an acceptable order from the Commission, the above cause was by stipulation dismissed.

2. Webb City & Cartersville Water Case (Circuit Court):

This suit, brought in the Circuit Court of Cole County, to review an order of the Commission fixing water rates at Webb City and Cartersville, was pending at the time of the institution of the suit last mentioned in the Federal Court. The Company's appeal was dismissed, and the order of the Commission, sustained

3. Union Electric Light and Power Company Cases:

These cases, eighteen in number and of like character, were brought in the Circuit Court of Cole County, Missouri, in April, 1919, by certain large consumers of the company in the City of St. Louis to review and set aside an order of the Commission granting an increase to the Company in rates for heat furnished. These cases were heard together on the 31st day of October, 1919. Later the Circuit Court set aside the orders of the Commission. Appeals were taken by the Commission and the Company. The cases were briefed and argued at the April term, 1921, of the Supreme Court, but no decision has been handed down.

4. **Mountain Grove Train Service Case:** This case, involving the validity of an order of the Commission requiring certain train service to be rendered at Mountain Grove, Missouri, by the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company was, at the time of the last report, pending on appeal taken to the Supreme Court by the Railway Company. A decision was handed down by Division No. 1 of the Supreme Court in July, 1920, sustaining the order of the Commission. Upon a motion for a re-hearing, filed by the Railway Company, the case was transferred to the Court en Banc at the October term, 1920, and the judges were equally divided (Judge David E. Blair not sitting). Judge Thomas J. Seehorn was selected as a special judge to sit in the case and it was again briefed and again orally argued before the Court en Banc at the October term, 1921, and in November, 1921, a decision was rendered, sustaining the order of the Commission. (235 S. W. 131.) The case was taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, upon writ of error, sued out by the Railway Company, and there briefed and argued. The United States Supreme Court reversed the judgment of the Missouri Supreme Court, and accordingly the order of the Commission, chiefly on the ground that the train in question was an interstate train, and the evidence did not show that it was sufficiently used locally to authorize interference by the State.

5. **Kansas City Light and Power Company Heating Rate:** This case is a suit brought in the Circuit Court of Jackson County by Mary B. Case et al., to review an order fixing rates for electric and heating service and was at the time of the last report, pending in the Supreme Court of Missouri. The case was heard at Independence by Judge Hall of the Circuit Court of Jackson County, in February, 1921, was taken under advisement, was again argued in March, 1922, and later a decision rendered setting aside the order of the Commission. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court and the case set for hearing on the October docket, 1922, at which time it was briefed and argued. The Supreme Court reversed the Jackson County Circuit Court and sustained the order of the Commission.

6. **Southwestern Bell Telephone Case:** This is a suit involving the validity of an order of the Commission made November 26, 1919, cutting out certain charges for installation and moving of phones established by the Postmaster General. At the time of the last report, it was pending in the Supreme Court on appeal taken by the Company from the Circuit Court

of Cole County. It was heard by the Court en Banc at the January call, 1921, and later a decision rendered, sustaining the order of the Commission. (233 S. W. 425.) The Telephone Company took an appeal in this case to the Supreme Court of the United States where the judgment of the Missouri Supreme Court and the order of the Commission was reversed on the ground that the order of the Commission had fixed an unduly low value on the property of the Telephone Company and had not allowed sufficient charges to yield a reasonable return on the property of the Telephone Company devoted to the public use.

7. **Capital City Water Company Case:** This is a suit by the Company owning the waterworks system in Jefferson City to review and set aside the orders of the Commission fixing the valuation of the company's property, and also prescribing rates. At the time of the last report, this case was pending on appeal in the Supreme Court. It was heard by the Court en Banc at the January call, 1921. In this case the judges also were equally divided in opinion (Judge David E. Blair not sitting). A special judge was selected to sit in the case and it was again argued at the January call, 1922. The Supreme Court affirmed the order of the Commission. A Writ of Error was sued out by the Water Company in the Supreme Court of the United States, where the cause is now pending, and where it is expected to be reached for argument January next.

8. **St. Joseph Gas Company Case:** This is a suit brought by the City of St. Joseph in the Buchanan County Circuit Court to review and set aside orders of the Commission prescribing charges for gas and making certain increases therein. The Circuit Court of Buchanan County set aside the order of the Commission. An appeal to the Supreme Court was taken and the case heard on appeal at the January call, 1922, before the Court en Banc. In July, 1922, a decision was rendered which set aside the order of the Commission. A motion for rehearing was filed which was sustained. Upon the re-argument, the Supreme Court again rendered a decision which set aside the order of the Commission. A second motion for rehearing was filed and by the Court sustained, in which condition the cause is now pending.

9. **Southeast Missouri Rate Case:** These suits, eight in number, were brought in the United States District Court by various railroad companies operating in what is known as Southeast Missouri. They were based upon a finding and order of the Interstate Commerce Commission in a proceeding before that

Commission instituted by the Cairo Association of Commerce, wherein it was held that the rates in Southeast Missouri constituted an undue discrimination against the interstate commerce and against the commerce of Cairo, Illinois.

An interlocutory injunction was granted, restraining the Commission from interference with the railroad companies, putting in increased rates as directed by the Interstate Commerce Commission. Answers were filed in these suits on behalf of the Commission. These cases have been briefed and argued, but not yet decided.

10. **Adair County Coal Company Case:** This is a suit brought by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company in the Circuit Court of Adair County, to review an order of the Commission requiring the railroad company to repair and operate certain spur tracks leading to the mines of the Adair County Coal Company and certain other companies. After several settings and continuances, the case was heard and a decision rendered, sustaining the order of the Commission. An appeal was taken by the Railroad Company, and later dismissed and the order of the Commission sustained.

11. **M., K. & T.—Liberty Street Crossing Case:** This is a suit brought in the Circuit Court of Cole County by the City of Kansas City to review and set aside an order of the Commission authorizing the M., K. & T. Railway Company to construct and operate a track across Liberty Street in Kansas City, to land already owned by the railway company, and in order that the company might extend its trackage and facilities for handling hay and other commodities. The case was heard by the Circuit Court in July, 1921, and in September a decision rendered sustaining the order of the Commission. An appeal was taken by Kansas City and also by Ellen V. Cunningham et al., as interveners and owners of adjacent property. Upon the application of Counsel for the Commission and of the Railway Company, the time for hearing of the appeal was advanced, and the case heard before the Court en Banc, at the January call, 1922. In July, 1922, an opinion was handed down sustaining the Commission. Motions for rehearing were filed by the appellants which were sustained. The case was re-argued and submitted after which, by a divided Court, the Commission's order was reversed.

12. **Big Springs Hotel Company Case:** This is a suit brought by the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company to set

aside an order of the Commission requiring the stopping of certain passenger trains at Neosho, Missouri. The case before the Commission was upon an application of the Big Springs Hotel Company. The suit was heard by the Circuit Court of Cole County in July, 1921, and in September following a decision rendered, sustaining the order of the Commission.

The railway company took an appeal to the Supreme Court, and the case was heard at the April term, 1922, and thereafter a decision rendered, reversing the order of the Commission.

13. **St. Joseph Gas Company Case:** This, a second suit, was brought by the City of St. Joseph to review certain orders made by the Commission subsequent to those in issue in the suit mentioned in the foregoing paragraph. A return to the writ of review issued out of the Circuit Court of Buchanan County was made in due time, but on account of the pendency of the suit before mentioned and the fact that the motions for rehearing in the prior suit are yet undetermined, the latter suit has not been brought to trial.

14. **Southwest Missouri Railroad Case:** This controversy is one of long standing. In 1915 the Southwest Missouri Railroad Company made an application to the Commission for permission to discontinue service upon two spurs in the City of Carthage. The City intervened and resisted the application. The Commission held, upon a hearing, that it was without power to grant the relief prayed for as against the non-consent of the City. The Company sued out a writ of review in the Cole County Circuit Court. The case, thence, went to the Supreme Court and was heard, and the Supreme Court, in the view of the Commission and of this Department, held that the Commission had power to hear and determine the case and to grant the relief prayed for, if the facts justified it, and the application was, therefore, remanded to the Commission for further action. The Commission held further hearings and made its report and order granting to the Southwest Missouri Railroad Company permission to abandon the spur mentioned in the application. The City of Carthage sued out a writ of review of this order and the case was heard in the Cole County Circuit Court in June, 1922, and a judgment rendered sustaining the Commission. The City took an appeal to the Supreme Court. The case was there briefed and argued and a decision later rendered sustaining the Commission.

15. **Kansas Natural Gas Company Case:** This is a suit brought by the Public Service Commission in the name of the

State and joining also the Attorney General against the Kansas Natural Gas Company in the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri. The Kansas Natural Gas Company furnishes the supply of natural gas to the local gas companies operating in Kansas City, Joplin and certain other smaller towns in Missouri. In April, 1922, the Kansas Natural Gas Company gave notice to the local companies that it would thereafter demand and charge an increase of 5 cents per thousand cubic feet for natural gas supply to the local companies and that unless such increase was paid, it would refuse longer to furnish gas to the company or companies so refusing to pay.

This increase was demanded without asking the permission of the Public Service Commission. The Kansas Natural Gas Company procures its supply of gas from Oklahoma and Kansas; none of it is obtained in Missouri. The Kansas Natural Gas Company denied and denies that this Commission has any power over its operations or over the rates it may charge for natural gas to local companies operating in Missouri. A restraining order was obtained from Judge Van Valkenburgh, restraining the Natural Gas Company from shutting off the supply of gas, pending a hearing of the case. The case was heard by the District Judge, Judge Van Valkenburgh, at Kansas City, Missouri, on the 26th of June, 1922. The Kansas City Gas Company intervened in the suit, as co-plaintiff, with the Commission. The Court held that this Commission was without power to regulate the rates for gas to be charged by the Kansas Natural Gas Company essentially on the ground that the company was engaged wholly in interstate commerce and had no franchise from the State of Missouri or from any City in this state whereby it assumed the obligation in this State of a public utility company. On the 20th day of September, 1922, this department procured from the Court an order allowing an appeal in the case to the Supreme Court of the United States, where the case was briefed and argued and the decision of the District Court affirmed.

16. Louisiana Water Company Case: This is a suit brought in May, 1922, in the United States District Court by the Louisiana Water Company against the Commission, seeking to enjoin the Commission from interfering with the company in putting in force higher rates for water service in the City of Louisiana, and particularly higher charges to the City of Louisiana for hydrant rentals.

A hearing of the application for an interlocutory injunction was had in Kansas City in May, 1922, and the Court granted an interlocutory injunction against the Commission. Upon the suggestion of this Department the City of Louisiana has asked permission to intervene in the suit and an order was made by the United States District Court at its regular October Term, 1922, permitting the city to intervene, file its answer to the bill of the company and take part of the defense of the case, as a formal party. This case was later tried, and an order and decision rendered by the Court enjoined this Commission from interfering with the rates charged by the Water Company, from which judgment and order an appeal has been taken by the Commission to the Supreme Court of the United States.

17. **Citizens Gas Company Case:** This is a suit brought by the Citizens Gas Company of Hannibal, Missouri, against the Commission, in the United States District Court. The suit is founded upon the allegation that the valuation fixed by the Commission is unreasonably low and operates to confiscate its property and that the rates prescribed by the Commission to be charged by the Company are confiscatory. This suit was filed in June, 1922, but the application which the company made for an interlocutory injunction was not acted upon by the Court. Answer was filed by this Department for the Commission in due time. The case was later tried, briefed and argued, but no decision has yet been rendered.

18. **Discontinuance of Passenger Trains Case:** This suit is one brought for the Commission in the Circuit Court of the City of St. Louis, against the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway Company, to enforce an order of the Commission made in July, 1921, which prohibited any railroad company to discontinue any passenger train operated in the State of Missouri without first securing, from the Commission, permission to discontinue such train. The case was heard by Judge Hall of the Circuit Court of St. Louis in January, 1922, and afterwards a decision rendered by him against the Commission and holding the general order upon which the suit was founded to be invalid. An appeal was taken for the Commission to the Supreme Court. The case was set down for hearing upon the October Docket, 1922, in Division No. 1 of the Supreme Court, but on account of the Federal question involved has been transferred to Court en Banc and the Court has ordered set down for hearing at the January call, 1923. The case was briefed and argued and the

Court thereafter rendered a decision affirming the judgment of the Circuit Court.

19. **Turner Road Crossing Case:** This is a suit brought by the Wabash Railroad Company to set aside an order of the Commission made upon the application of W. M. Turner, Road Overseer, in Carroll County for the construction of a grade crossing of the Wabash Railroad Company for a public road. From a judgment in the Circuit Court of Cole County, sustaining the order of the Commission, this case was appealed to the Supreme Court, and the appeal later dismissed.

20. **Springfield Gas Case:** This cause is now pending in the United States District Court, and grows out of an application filed by the Company before the Commission, asking for certain valuations and rates. Upon this application the order was later by the Commission made, fixing a valuation and prescribing rates which the Company contended were unjustly low and sought injunctive relief in the District Federal Court, on the constitutional grounds that the order of the Commission deprived the Company of its property without due process of law. The cause has been tried in the Federal Court, but no decision yet rendered.

21. **Bevier & Southern Railroad Company Case:** This case, now pending in the United States District Court, grows out of an order of the Commission requiring the railroad company to install and operate a passenger train, from which order of the Commission an injunction was sought, and a temporary one obtained, in the United States District Court, where the cause is now pending.

22. **Kansas City Terminal Railway Company (Oak Street Viaduct Case):** This cause is now pending in the Supreme Court, appealing from a decision of the Cole County Circuit Court affirming an order of the Commission, authorizing and ordering the Terminal Railroad Company of Kansas City to construct, at its own expense, a viaduct over its tracks at Oak Street in said City. The case has been briefed, argued and submitted, but not yet decided.

23. **Wabash Railway Company (Delmar Grade Crossing Case):** This case grows out of an application of the City of St. Louis for a separation of the grade at Delmar in the City of St. Louis, where said street is crossed at grade by the Wabash Railway Company. From an order of the Commission, separating said grade by means of a viaduct and apportioning the cost between the city and the railroad company, a writ of review was

sued out by the railroad company against the Commission in the Cole County Circuit Court, which Court reversed the order of the Commission and remanded the cause. From this judgment of the Cole County Circuit Court, the Commission, together with the City of St. Louis, appealed to the Supreme Court where the case was briefed and argued, and which court later by its decision reversed the Cole Circuit Court and sustained the order of the Commission.

24. **West St. Louis Water and Light Company Case:** This case is now pending in the Supreme Court on appeal from an order of the Cole Circuit Court, reversing an order of the Commission. It has been continued in the Supreme Court by stipulation of the parties, pending an adjustment.

25. **Kansas City Power and Light Company (Fuse Box Case):** This cause is now pending in the Supreme Court on the January call and is from a judgment of the Circuit Court of Cole County, sustaining an order of the Commission, prohibiting the Light Company from requiring certain of its patrons in apartment houses to install the specific fuse box for the purpose of obtaining electric current.

26. **Flood et al. vs. Commission.** This is a case now pending in the Buchanan County Circuit Court, seeking to review the legality of an order of the Commission with respect to certain telephone service. It has not yet been heard.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

This department consists of a Chief Engineer, six assistant Engineers and one stenographer.

The duties of the Engineering Department consist of:

(a). Appraisal of all properties over which Commission has jurisdiction.

(b). All matters relating to investigation of accidents on steam and electric railways.

(c). All matters relating to protection, alteration and elimination of grade crossings.

(d). Inspection of steam and electric railway properties.

(e). Investigations to determine necessity and safety of switch and sidetrack connections.

(f). All matters relating to steam and electric railway signal systems and interlocking plants.

(g). All matters relating to steam and electric railway clearances.

(h). All matters relating to street railway traffic studies and service.

(i). Investigation relative to applications for certificate of convenience and necessity, filed by steam and electric railways.

(j). All drainage investigations.

(k). All investigations relating to necessity for filtration of water supplies, intakes, etc., and approval of plans for same.

Appraisal of Property of Public Utilities.

Appraisals of the following properties were completed during the years 1923 and 1924:

Edina Electric Company,
Edina Telephone Company,
Kansas City Gas Company,
Home Telephone Company of Centralia,
Peoples Gas and Electric Company of Chillicothe,
Boonville Light, Heat and Power Company,
Missouri Public Utilities Company,
Missouri Gas and Electric Service Company.

Approximate appraisals were made of the properties of the Arkansas-Missouri Power Company, the West Missouri Power Company, the Independence Natural Gas Company, the Missouri Power and Light Company and the Tri-Cities Electric Company in connection with applications for authority to issue securities.

The department is at present engaged on appraisal of the property of the Laclede Gas Light Company of St. Louis.

Investigation of Accidents on Steam and Electric Railways.

Steam and electric railways are required to wire immediate reports of accidents. The messages are followed by a detailed report of accident. At the end of each month a summary of all accidents that have occurred during the month, is filed with the Commission.

A careful investigation is made of all accidents resulting in injury or death. The purpose of these investigations is to determine the cause and to apply corrective measures, rather than to fix the blame. As a result of these investigations many high-way grade crossings have been protected.

Investigation of Safety and Adequacy of Service Rendered by Steam Roads.

No general inspection of steam railroads of Missouri was made during the years 1923 and 1924 for the reason that the force was inadequate to make such inspection and also carry on other more important work.

Wabash Railway Company's track between Columbia and Centralia was examined. Report recommending improvements was made. Company complied with recommendations and made the improvements.

Made traffic study and report on service of United Railways Company of St. Louis to Webster Groves.

Made crossing surveys at Gorin and Meadville.

Investigation of Adequacy of Service Rendered by Other Public Utilities.

Tested natural gas wells of the Independence Natural Gas Company.

Investigated failure of Independence Waterworks Company to supply Lees Summit with water. Company complied with suggestions and improved the service.

Investigation to determine Necessity and Safety of Switch and Sidetrack Connections.

Made investigation to determine feasibility of sidetrack connection between Moyer Bros.' coal mine (near Kirksville) and Quincy, Omaha & Kansas City main line.

Investigation of Signal Systems and Interlocking Plants.

Approved plan for crossing bell at Fruito.

Approved plan for Frisco crossing bell at Bois D'Arc.

Approved plan for interlocker at Birmingham.

Approved plan for C., B. & Q. interlocker at Amazonia.

Approved plan for Frisco crossing bell, Central Ave., Joplin.

Approved plan for Frisco crossing bell, 4th St., Joplin.

Approved plan for Frisco crossing bell, A St., Joplin.

Approved plan for Frisco crossing bell, 7th St., Joplin.

Approved plan for wig-wag at Virginia Ave., Joplin.

Approved plan for crossing bell at Dixon.

Approved plan for wig-wag at Morrow St., Neosho.

Approved plan for wig-wag at Washington St., Neosho.

Approved plan for wig-wag at Baxter St., Neosho.

Approved plan for wig-wag at Vernon Ave., St. Louis County.

Approved plan for Frisco crossing bell at Imperial.

Approved plan for Frisco crossing bell at Butterfield.

Approved plan for Frisco crossing bell at Bois D'Arc.

Approved plan for alterations to interlocker at East Bottoms, Kansas City, Missouri.

Special Investigations.

Made examination and report on condition and financial requirements of Confederate Home at Higginsville. Investigation and report for legislature on necessity for additional electric generating equipment in central power plant for capitol building.

General.

Members of the Engineering Department attended hearings, testified and assisted the Commission in preparing reports and orders in many cases.

Analysis of Accidents.

Compilation and analysis of the accident reports of the carriers to the Commission discloses the following:

FIRST TEN MONTHS OF 1923.

	Steam.		Electric.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Passengers.....	18	209	1	950	19	1,159
Employees.....	35	1,052	4	15	39	1,097
Trespassers.....	65	80	2	5	67	85
Non-Trespassers....	50	178	9	495	59	673
Totals.....	168	1,549	16	1,465	184	3,014

FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF 1924.

	Steam.		Electric.		Total.	
	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.	Killed.	Injured.
Passengers.....	1	48	8	792	9	840
Employees.....	6	332	2	28	8	360
Trespassers.....	21	33	1	3	22	36
Non-Trespassers....	15	47	22	494	37	541
Totals.....	43	460	33	1,317	76	1,777

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS AND ACCOUNTS.

Fiscal Period October 1, 1922, to December 31, 1923.

Fiscal Period January 1, 1924, to October 31, 1924.

Until the middle of October, 1923, the personnel of this Department consisted of a Chief Accountant, three Expert Accountants, three Assistant Accountants and a Statement Clerk. On October 11, 1923, one of the Assistant Accountants resigned and the Department functioned thereafter with a curtailed force.

The regular activities of the Department are as follows:

1. Audit of books and records of Steam Railroads, Electric Railroads, Express Companies, Telephone Companies, Gas, Electric, Water and Heating Utilities, in order to ascertain Original Cost, Capitalization, Income, Expenditures, Operating Statistics and Rate of Return, to be used in Valuation, Capitalization and Rate-making cases.
2. Drafting Accounting Systems and forms of Annual Reports for Utilities.
3. Analyzing Accounting and Statistical exhibits and Evidence presented by Utilities in Valuation, Capitalization and Rate-making cases.
4. Compiling Financial and Operating data from Annual Reports of Missouri Utilities for other Commissions, Municipalities, Civic Leagues, Traffic Associations, Utilities, Brokers, Attorneys and sundry petitions for such information.
5. Compiling Comparative Statistical data from Annual Reports of Utilities.
6. Examining and Recording verified semi-annual reports of realization from Bond and Stock issues authorized by the Commission and distribution of such proceeds.
7. Examine quarterly, semi-annual and annual exhibits of the Operating Results of companies operating under temporary rates, with a view to determining whether such rates should be further extended or terminated.
8. Preparing, proof reading, mailing, receiving, acknowledging and filing Annual Reports of the various Utilities operating in the State of Missouri.

9. Attending hearings and assisting the Commission in the preparation of Reports and Orders in Valuation, Capitalization and Rate Cases,
10. Advising verbally and by correspondence the various Utilities in matters pertaining to Accounts and Statistics.

**AUDITS MADE DURING THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 1922,
TO DECEMBER 31. 1923.**

**Springfield Gas and Electric Company (Gas Department),
Springfield, Missouri.**

An audit was made of the books of this company in order to determine the Original Cost of its Gas property as of June 30, 1922, and to ascertain the Operating Revenues, Operating Expenses and Net Profit from Operations of its Gas Department for the first six months of 1922. (A Supplementary Audit was made covering the last six months of 1922.)

As the Gas Department is operated in conjunction with an Electric Light and Power Department and a Steam Heating Department, and as certain items were also common to the Street Railway Department, it necessitated many involved apportionments and segregations:

The report was placed in evidence and testified to by the Commission's Accounting Staff at a hearing held in Jefferson City.

Edina Telephone Company, Edina, Missouri.

An Audit to determine the Original Cost of plant and to ascertain the Operating Results of this company for the first nine months of 1922 was made, report rendered and testified to at a hearing held at Edina.

Edina Light Company. Edina, Missouri.

The Original Cost to September 30, 1922, and the Operating Revenues, Operating Expenses and Results of Operation for the nine months ended September 30, 1922, were ascertained by an Audit.

Peoples Gas and Electric Company, Chillicothe, Missouri.

The Accounting Department audited the books of this company to determine the Original Cost of its property as of

November 30, 1922, and to ascertain the results of its operations for the eleven months ended November 30, 1922.

Report was presented in evidence and testimony given thereon at a hearing held at Chillicothe.

Missouri Utilities Company, Mexico, Missouri.

The above company operates a Gas, an Electric, a Water and a Heating Plant at Mexico, Missouri, and by transmission lines serves various contiguous towns with Electric Current.

A very comprehensive Audit was made to determine the Original Cost of the property serving each of the different departments as well as to obtain the results of operations of the various activities for the ten months ended October 31, 1922.

Various apportionments of Common Expenses between the different classes of utilities operated were necessary. A detailed analysis of the company's Surplus Account, from its inception to October 31, 1922, was made and presented in the report.

Certain Electric, Gas, Water and Heating Statistics of production, distribution and loss were gathered and incorporated in the report.

Sac River Light and Power Company, Humansville, Missouri.

An Audit to determine the Original Cost of property to December 31, 1922, and the Operating Results for the last six months of 1922 was consummated, and report prepared. This company serves three communities with Electric Current.

Mt. Vernon Telephone Company, Mt. Vernon, Missouri.

The books of the above company were audited to ascertain the investment in property as of December 31, 1922, and the Operating Results for the year of 1922. The company serves Sarcxie, Missouri, as well as Mt. Vernon and the accounts of both exchanges were audited. This Audit required a separation of Common Expenses between Toll and Exchange.

**Springfield Gas & Electric Company (Electric Department),
Springfield, Missouri.**

An Audit was made of the books of the above company in order to determine the Original Cost of its property devoted to Electric Operations as of date December 31, 1922, and to ascertain

the Result of its Operations for the year of 1922. This Audit required many technical apportionments and segregations as the company operates a Gas Department and a Heating Department as well as an Electric Department. Certain of its Common Expenses are also assignable to the Traction Company. Various tables of Statistics of Operation were prepared and incorporated in the report.

Boonville Light, Heat & Power Company, Boonville, Missouri.

The above named company operates both Gas and Electric Utilities. The Original Cost to December 31, 1922, and the Operating Revenues, Operating Expenses, and Results of Operation for the year of 1922, for both departments, were ascertained by Audit. An analysis of Surplus for the various companies involved from their inception to December 31, 1922, was made and shown. Various statistical data was secured and published. This Audit also required many apportionments between departments.

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Kennett Exchange.

The Operating Revenues, Expenses and Net Profit from Operations for the year 1922 were obtained by an Audit of the above company's books. A separation between Toll and Exchange was necessary. The report was presented in evidence and testified to by a member of the Accounting Staff.

Home Telephone Company, Centralia, Missouri.

The books of the above company were audited in order to ascertain the Operating Revenues, Operating Expenses, and Net Profits for the twelve months ended February 28, 1923. Various statistical data was prepared and included, and the report was testified to at a hearing held before the Commission.

Kansas City Railways Company, Kansas City, Missouri.

An Audit of the books of this company was made to ascertain the Operating Revenues, Operating Expenses, and Net Profit from Operations for the twelve months' period ended May 31, 1923. As the Commission's jurisdiction extends over the Missouri property and operations only, it was necessary to make many segregations and apportionments between Missouri and

Kansas. The Results of Operations in both States were shown in our report. This is one of the largest Missouri Utilities and the apportionments required many involved calculations, hence the time expended upon this Audit was considerable. Many statistical tables were prepared showing passengers carried, car miles, car hours, etc.

Laclede Gas Light Company, St. Louis, Missouri.

The books of above company were Audited to determine the Operating Revenues, Operating Expenses, Net Profit from Operations for the first seven months of 1922. As this company operates a Gas Utility, an Electric Utility and a Pintsch Gas Department, we were required to make various allocations of Common Costs. Various tables showing the trend of costs of principal items used in the production of Gas and Electric Current were prepared and incorporated in the report. The Net Additions to Plant Property from August 1, 1918, to July 31, 1922, were shown. This report was put in evidence and testified to at a hearing held in Jefferson City.

The Franklin Electric Company, Franklin, Missouri.

The Auditing Department of the Commission examined the records of this company to determine their property investment as at April 30, 1923. The report was testified to at a hearing held in Jefferson City.

Kansas City Gas Company, Kansas City, Missouri.

An Audit of the records of the company was made to ascertain the Operating Results of the company for the twelve months ended June 30, 1923. Various statistical tables were included. This Audit required much time owing to the size of the company and the fact that we had but two men available for the work.

Laclede Gas Light Company, St. Louis, Missouri.

An Audit to determine the Original Cost of the property of the above company from its inception to December 31, 1923, was undertaken during the latter part of 1923. This was a tremendous task with our curtailed force. Especially so when it is remembered that other demanded Audits had to be handled concurrently. This company operates a Gas Department, an

Electric Department and a Pintsch Department. This work required many months of the accountant's time.

Moberly Light & Power Company, Moberly, Missouri.

An Audit of the Plant Account of the Gas and Electric Properties of the above company, as well as certain outside utilities which it serves, was made. The Results of Operations for the year of 1922, and the first ten months of 1923, were secured.

**AUDITS MADE DURING THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 1924,
TO OCTOBER 31, 1924.**

Clinton County Telephone Company, Plattsburg, Missouri.

The books of the above company were audited in order to ascertain the investment in Plant to December 31, 1923, and also to obtain the Results of Operations for the year of 1923. The company serves about twelve cities and towns. An apportionment of Operating Revenues and Operating Expenses between the various localities served was required. Various statistical tables were incorporated in the report.

Missouri Gas & Electric Service Company, Lexington, Missouri.

This company serves thirteen cities and towns with Electric Energy, and in addition serves various coal mines. It also sells Electricity to another company which in turn supplies about fourteen towns in Missouri with Energy.

It also operates Gas Plants at Lexington and Marshall, as well as an Ice Plant at Marshall. Our Audit ascertained the cost of the property to December 31, 1923, and the Operating Results for the year 1923. Owing to the various localities affected, and the different classes of utility service rendered, it was necessary to make many apportionments, allocations and segregations.

Platte Valley Light & Power Company.

This company serves about a dozen towns with Electric Current. Our Audit was to determine the cost of the property to December 31, 1923, and the Operating Results for the six months' period ended December 31, 1923. This Audit necessitated various segregations of expenses between localities.

City Water Company, Sedalia, Missouri.

This Audit was made to ascertain the additions to property from July 1, 1915, to April 30, 1924, and the Results of Operations for the year of 1923. Various statements of Plant Addition, Income Accounts, Surplus Analysis and Statistics were prepared and presented. The report was put in evidence and testimony given thereon by a member of the Accounting Staff.

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, Kennett Exchange.

The Accounting Department was instructed to ascertain the Original Cost of property to March 21, 1924, and the Operating Revenues and Expenses for the six months ended March 31, 1924. This investigation necessitated the segregation of Operating Expenses between Toll and Exchange. This was a complicated task.

West St. Louis Water and Light Company, St. Louis County.

This Department audited this company's records to determine the Additions to property from January 1, 1922, to April 30, 1924, and to secure the Operating Results for the fiscal year ended April 30, 1924. This company serves over twenty cities, towns and communities, and the determination of the Revenues received from each locality, as well as the water consumed, required considerable time and labor. Many statements were prepared and incorporated in the report.

Union Electric Light & Power Company, St. Louis, Missouri.

The Auditing Department is at present engaged upon an Audit of the various subsidiaries of the Light & Development Company recently purchased in the interest of the Union Electric Light & Power Company. These represent many towns and cities in southeastern Missouri, as well as considerable property in St. Louis and vicinity. The Original Cost of the property so acquired, as well as the Results of Operations, is being determined.

COMPILING COMPARATIVE STATISTICAL DATA.

During the periods covered this Department compiled much statistical data, gathered from the Annual Reports filed by Utilities, and furnished same to Cities, States, Commissions,

Brokers, Civic Bodies, etc., at rates stipulated by the Public Service Commission Law.

STOCK, BOND AND NOTE AUTHORIZATIONS.

Utilities organized, existing or incorporated under the laws of Missouri may issue Stocks, Bonds, Notes and other evidences of indebtedness, payable at periods of more than twelve months after the date thereof, only after securing an order from the Commission authorizing such issue. The order specifies the amount of issue and the disposition of the proceeds. This Department examines all exhibits and documents presented and reports its recommendations to the Commission. For the fiscal periods covered in this report the Commission authorized the issuance of Stocks, Bonds and Notes as set out in the appended tables. The Commission requires semi-annual reports from Utilities of the sale of securities and disposition of the proceeds. These reports are checked in this Department in order to ascertain whether all stipulations set forth in the order are met.

GENERAL.

The Chief Accountant of the Commission is required to prepare memoranda in Rate Extension Cases, Bond, Stock and Note Issue Cases, and in some instances write the orders authorizing or denying the application. During the periods covered memoranda reports and orders covering many cases were written.

TABLE SHOWING ALL AUTHORIZATIONS GRANTED TO ISSUE STOCKS, BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION LAW, FROM OCTOBER 1, 1922, TO DECEMBER 31, 1923.

No.	Name of company.	Kind of security.	Amount allowed.	Date of permit.
3342	Mo. Gas & Electric Service Co.....	Stock.....	\$101,100.00	10-17-22
3363	Mo. Gas & Electric Service Co.....	Stock.....	103,900.00	3- 3-23
3412	Springfield Traction Co.....	Notes.....	294,300.00	10- 2-22
3415	Mo. Mutual Tel. Co. of Osage Co.....	Notes.....	4,500.00	10-26-22
3429	Ozark Southern Railway Co.....	Notes.....	50,000.00	12- 8-22
3439	West St. Louis Water & Light Co. {	Stock.....	100,000.00	10-17-22
		Bonds.....	200,000.00	
3446	Kahoka Telep. & Const'n. Co.....	Stock.....	45,000.00	4-12-23
3454	Maryville Elec. Lt. & Pr. Co.....	Stock.....	365,000.00	1- 3-23
3458	Independence Water Works Co.....	Notes.....	42,000.00	11- 1-22
3462	Hannibal Ry. & Elec. Co.....	Bonds.....	150,000.00	11-15-22
3468	Empire District Electric Co.....	Bonds.....	430,000.00	11-27-22
3473	Kansas City Telephone Co.....	Bonds.....	3,000,000.00	11-17-22
3477	St. Louis-San Francisco R. R. Co.....	Bonds.....	6,692,600.00	11-17-22

TABLE SHOWING ALL AUTHORIZATIONS GRANTED TO ISSUE STOCKS, BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION LAW, FROM OCTOBER 1, 1922, TO DECEMBER 31, 1923—Continued.

No.	Name of company.	Kind of security.	Amount allowed.	Date of perm't.
3478	Mo. Utilities Co.	Stock.	\$110,000.00	11-22-22
		Bonds.	600,000.00	
3489	Union Electric Lt. & Fr. Co.	Pref. Stock.	6,000,000.00	11-21-22
		Non-Par Stk.	650,000 Shares	
3490	F. T. Staton & P. J. Dean.	Notes.	8,000.00	3-16-23
3499	Springfield Gas & Elec. Co.	Notes.	508,900.00	1-23-23
3502	Springfield City Water Co.	Notes.	15,000.00	10-18-23
3504	North Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	15,000.00	1-13-23
3506	Independence Natural Gas Co.	Stock.	45,000.00	4-13-23
3510	West Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	350,000.00	1-18-23
		Bonds.	1,350,000.00	
3510	West Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	150,000.00	3- 5-23
3510	West Missouri Power Co.	Notes.	150,000.00	4-14-23
3526	Laclede Gas Light Co.	Bonds.	17,500,000.00	1-11-23
3535	South Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	50,000.00	2-26-23
3538	Union Electric Lt. & Pr. Co.	Stock.	2,000,000.00	1-22-23
3539	F. B. & P. T. Holcomb.	Notes.	19,000.00	1-30-23
3546	Kirksville Gas, Heat & Elec. Co.	Stock.	25,000.00	8-17-23
3552	Lafayette Telephone Co.	Stock.	15,000.00	2-28-23
3574	Farmers & Mor. Tel. Co. of Odessa.	Notes.	6,000.00	4- 6-23
3585	Union Electric Lt. & Pr. Co.	Stock.	1,000,000.00	3-15-23
3592	North Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	1,000.00	4- 6-23
3594	Missouri City Telephone Co.	Stock.	3,000.00	1-20-23
3604	North Missouri Power Co.	Notes.	40,000.00	7- 9-23
3609	Franklin Electric Co.	Bonds.	15,000.00	0-22-23
3612	North Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	100,000.00	7- 9-23
3624	St. Louis South Western Ry. Co.	Certif.	2,700,000.00	4-30-23
3645	Missouri Gas & Electric Service Co.	Notes.	7,500.00	7- 9-23
3652	Ark.-Mo. Power Co.	Bonds.	674,600.00	0-29-23
3652	Ark.-Mo. Power Co.	Bonds.	55,500.00	7-31-23
3660	North Missouri Power Co.	Notes.	8,400.00	7- 3-23
3680	Columbia Telephone Co.	Par Value Stk.	150,000.00	8-23-23
		Non-Par Stk.	1500 Shares	
3695	Public Service Co. of Mo.	Bonds.	140,000.00	8- 7-23
		Stock.	40,000.00	
3707	East Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	27,000.00	9-10-23
3708	East Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	16,000.00	9-10-23
3709	East Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	5,000.00	9-10-23
3718	Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.	Bonds.	50,000,000.00	8-15-23
3731	Salisbury Telephone Co.	Stock.	0,000.00	9-17-23
3743	North Missouri Power Co.	Notes.	300,000.00	10-10-23
3752	Ark.-Mo. Power Co.	Bonds.	308,400.00	9-27-23
3760	West Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	100,000.00	10- 5-23
3764	St. Charles Gas Co.	Stock.	160,000.00	9-27-23
3765	North Missouri Power Co.	Notes.	9,100.00	10-23-23
3773	Receiver United Railways Co.	Rec. Certfs.	4,200,000.00	9-27-23
		Bonds.	4,250,000.00	
3800	Missouri Power & Light Co.	Par Stock.	409,900.00	11-20-23
		Non Par Stk.	30,000 Shares	
3801	Kansas City Terminal R. R. Co.	Notes.	10,000,000.00	11- 2-23
3811	Kansas City Telephone Co.	Stock.	6,000,000.00	11-16-23
3824	Kansas City Pr. & Lt. Co.	Bonds.	2,000,000.00	11-26-23
		Non-Par Stk.	10,000 shares	
3846	Holden Home Telephone Co.	Stock.	8,000.00	12-18-23

TABLE SHOWING ALL AUTHORIZATIONS GRANTED TO ISSUE STOCKS, BONDS, NOTES AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS UNDER THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION LAW, FROM JANUARY 1, 1924, TO OCTOBER 31, 1924.

No.	Name of company.	Kind of security.	Amount allowed.	Date of permitt.
3694	Public Service Co. of Missouri.	Bonds.	\$12,500.00	2- 1-24
3745	East Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	20,000.00	1- 7-24
3794	Mo. Gas & Electric Service Co.	Stock.	77,000.00	1-31-24
3811	Kansas City Telephone Co.	Stock.	3,000,000.00	1-24-24
3830	East Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	20,000.00	1- 8-24
3831	East Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	4,000.00	1-11-24
3832	Mo. Gas & Elec. Service Co.	Stock.	110,000.00	4- 7-24
3832	Mo. Gas & Elec. Service Co.	Bonds.	138,400.00	6-26-24
3849	United Telephone Co.	Stock.	13,710.00	2- 8-24
3869	North Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	100,000.00	2- 6-24
3877	Clinton County Telephone Co.	Stock.	8,300.00	9-11-24
3882	Pioneer Light & Power Co.	Stock.	6,210.00	2-20-24
3885	F. B. Field Telephone System.	Stock.	5,000.00	2-26-24
		Notes.	15,000.00	
3887	East Missouri Power Co.	Stock.	50,000.00	3- 5-24
3889	Missouri Union Telephone Co.	Stock.	50,000.00	2-28-24
3914	St. L. Southwestern Ry. Co.	Certificates.	1,800,000.00	2-29-24
3916	Troy Telephone Company.	Stock.	30,000.00	3-11-24
3935	Piedmont Light & Power Co.	Stock.	2,400.00	Pending
3949	Springfield City Water Co.	Bonds.	400,000.00	4- 9-24
3950	St. L. Kennett & Southeastern R. Co.	Bonds.	150,000.00	5- 8-24
3952	Lexington Water Co.	Bonds.	212,920.00	6- 7-24
3963	Tri-Cities Power Co.	Non-Par Stk.	1,500 Shares.	5-28-24
3964	Tri-Cities Power Co.	Bonds.	75,000.00	5-28-24
3979	Ark.-Mo. Power Co.	Bonds.	87,500.00	6-23-24
3980	Ark.-Mo. Power Co.	Bonds.	104,000.00	6-23-24
3985	Mo. Pacific R. R. Co.	Notes.	4,500,000.00	6-17-24
3994	Public Service Co. of Mo.	Stock.	45,500.00	7- 1-24
		Bonds.	434,500.00	
3997	Home Telephone Co. of Joplin.	Stock.	50,500.00	6-28-24
		Bonds.	132,000.00	
		Stock.	650,000.00	
4011	Missouri Power & Light Co.	Bonds.	400,000.00	8-13-24
		Non-Par Stk.	5,000 Shares.	
4012	West Missouri Power Co.	Bonds.	870,000.00	8-18-24
		Stock.	220,500.00	
4025	Terminal R. R. Ass'n. of St. Louis.	Bonds.	2,000,000.00	7-10-24
4032	B. F. & D. M. Johnson.	Note.	2,750.00	7- 7-24
4035	Missouri, Kansas & Texas R. R. Co.	Notes.	4,750,000.00	7-22-24
4041	Hannibal Ry. & Elec. Co.	Stock.	50,000.00	Pending
		Non-Par Stk.	1,000 Shares.	
4040	Cape Girardeau Bell Tel. Co.	Stock.	125,000.00	7-29-24
		Non-Par Stk.	3,750 Shares.	
4057	Austin Inland Telephone Co.	Bonds.	25,000.00	10- 2-24
4058	Springfield City Water Co.	Bonds.	50,000.00	8- 1-24
4061	Missouri Power & Light Co.	Stock.	181,500.00	8-13-24
		Bonds.	800,000.00	
4109	Laclede Gas Light Co.	Stock.	3,300,000.00	Pending
4110	Laclede Gas Light Co.	Bonds or Stk.	1,829,606.68	Pending
4135	Ark.-Mo. Power Co.	Bonds.	41,000.00	Pending
4143	St. Louis County Gas Co.	Bonds.	505,000.00	10-16-24
4148	Lawrence County W. L. & C. S. Co.	Stock.	100,000.00	Pending

11 824 800

GAS, ELECTRIC, HEAT AND WATER DEPARTMENT.

The work of this Department is at present carried on by its Chief and one Stenographer.

The duties of this Department are as follows:

First: The keeping of an accurate official record of all corporations and municipalities furnishing gas, electric, heating or water service in this State which come under the jurisdiction of the Commission in accordance with the definitions provided by the Public Service Commission Law.

Second: Attention to all correspondence and verbal requests for information coming before the Commission on matters pertaining to the business of furnishing gas, electric, heating or water service and allied technical subjects in general.

Third: Adjustments of all correspondence complaints involving gas, electric, heating or water service.

Fourth: The filing of the schedule of rates of gas, electric, heating and water utilities.

Fifth: General inspection and test of service meters.

Sixth: General supervision of matters pertaining to quality of equipment of gas, electric, heating and water utilities in so far as the public interest, public health and protection of the public and employees are concerned.

Seventh: Analysis in conjunction with the Accounting Department of all operating reports as required by this Commission's orders allowing temporary rates, from which analysis appropriate orders are made up, relative to continuing or changing temporary rates as allowed by this Commission.

Eighth: To attend hearings, offer testimony and make investigations when necessary and issue orders in all matters before the Commission involving permits for electric transmission lines, inductive interference controversies and transfers of utilities, and other formal cases before the Commission relating to standards, adequacy and extensions of utility service.

This Department wrote orders and reports in many cases, and conducted hearing in 14 cases.

The following investigations and inspection trips were made:

Clinton: Inspection of electric transmission line and telephone inductive interference conditions.

Humansville: Investigation and inspection of electric light and power service.

St. Louis: Inductive interference tests with special equipment made up by Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

Pleasant Hill: Test of effect of electric transmission line on toll lines of telephone company.

Gallatin: Investigation of Electric Plant owned by City and gave advice as to purchase of electric energy from outside source.

Lebanon: Investigation of costs of giving electric power service to Rice-Stix Factory.

Bunceton: Investigation of electric service.

Willow Springs: Investigation of electric service and assistance in securing a new and adequate electric generating plant and distribution system and granting of franchise for same.

Ava: Investigation of electric light and telephone systems.

Jefferson City: Survey and investigation of rural line requested by fourteen residents outside of City limits.

Owensville: Investigation of electrical connections and rates and charges for electric service to Hamilton-Brown Shoe Factory.

Rockport: Investigation of electric light and telephone conditions.

Phelps City: Investigation of electric light and telephone conditions.

Lawson: Investigation of electric light and telephone conditions.

Langdon: Investigation of electric light and telephone conditions.

Wayland: Investigation of electric service.

Forest City: Investigation of water service conditions.

St. Louis County: Tests of water meters.

Appleton City: Inspection and investigation of telephone and transmission line inductive interference conditions.

Festus: Inspection and investigation of telephone plant equipment.

Platte City: Inspection and investigation of telephone and transmission line inductive interference conditions.

Weston: Inspection and investigation of telephone and transmission line inductive interference conditions.

Atlanta: Inspection and investigation of electric light and power facilities.

Wyaconda: Inspection and investigation of electric light and power facilities.

Bethany: Made investigation and report on Bethany Light and Water Plant.

Maitland: Made investigation and report on electric light conditions.

Union Star: Investigation of electric light conditions.

Lees Summit: Investigation of water supply.

St. Louis County: Investigation of West St. Louis Water distribution system.

St. Charles: Investigation of gas service conditions.

Cairo: Investigation of transmission line from Moberly, Missouri; and electric service conditions at Cairo.

Liberty: Attended conference relative to electric rate reduction.

Higginsville: Attended conference with various city organizations relative to electric supply to the City of Higginsville.

St. Louis, Mo.: Conference with Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. relative to inductive interference tests.

Wayland: Investigation of electric service.

Hume: Physical inspection of electric plant and service conditions.

Kansas City, Mo.: To attend session of Technical Committee of the National Electric Light Association.

Boonville: Investigate complaints relative to extensions of gas service.

Lowry City: Inspection of transmission line and telephone inductive interference conditions.

Tarkio: Inspection of transmission line and telephone inductive interference conditions.

Fairfax: Inspection of transmission line and telephone inductive interference conditions.

This Department checked over and filed, and in many instances, made up new reduced schedules as follows:

Electric—Three Hundred and Fifty (350).

Gas—Forty-five (45).

Steam Heating—One (1).

Water—Five (5).

TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

As heretofore this department consists of the chief and one assistant.

The duties of this department are as follows:

First: The keeping of an accurate official record of all corporations or individuals furnishing telephone or telegraph service in this state and doing business for hire.

Second: The handling of all correspondence and verbal requests for information coming before the Commission on matters pertaining to telephone and telegraph service, and the adjustment by correspondence of all matters pertaining thereto.

Third: General supervision of matters pertaining to the quality and quantity of telephone and telegraph service; where necessary, inspections and tests of service being made.

Fourth: General supervision of the operation of the plants by the telephone and telegraph companies in so far as they pertain to the public interest, health and protection of the public and employees.

Fifth: Attending all public hearings held in the office of the Commission and other cases held throughout the territory where in the opinion of the Commission it is thought that the services of the telephone expert are required, and giving such testimony as is necessary; and as special examiner holding such hearings as are delegated to it by the Commission; the preparing of reports and orders in cases where the Commission delegates the same to this department.

The following work was done by members of this department:

Made inspection of the telephone exchange and rural lines of the Platte County Telephone Company at Platte City, Missouri, and wrote report on condition of the plant and cause of poor service.

Made inspection of telephone service in St. Louis, Missouri, and conferred with the officials of the telephone company regarding the same.

Attended four hearings at Butler, Missouri, and gave testimony where the rights of the Foster Telephone Company and the Hume Telephone Company were involved.

Made inspection and report on conditions of the telephone plants at Festus, Missouri, and Crystal City, Missouri.

Attended hearings and gave testimony in telephone cases at Carthage, Missouri, regarding consolidations.

Made inspection of the telephone systems and lines at Amity, Missouri, and wrote report on same.

Made inspection of the telephone property at Brunswick, Missouri, and wrote report on same.

Attended hearing at Carthage, Missouri, and gave testimony in the case of the Mt. Vernon Telephone Company's application to increase rates for service at Sarcxie, Missouri.

Made investigation of complaint regarding Western Union Telegraph service delivery charges at St. Louis, Missouri.

Made investigation and wrote report on complaints of telephone service at Kansas City, Missouri.

Made investigation and wrote report on condition of the telephone service at Laclede, Missouri.

Inspected the telephone plant at Missouri City, Missouri, and placed a value on the property.

Inspected the telephone plant at New Cambria, Missouri. Investigated the causes of complaints received from subscribers.

Attended telephone hearing and gave testimony as to the cause of poor telephone service at Laclede, Missouri, which complaint had been filed by the city authorities.

Attended telephone hearing at Kansas City, Missouri.

Attended hearing and gave testimony at telephone hearing held in Columbia, Missouri.

Made inspection of telephone plant at Lockwood, Missouri, and attended a conference held with members of the Commercial Club and telephone owners.

Made an inspection of the telephone plant and service rendered the public by the Joplin Home Telephone Company at Webb City, Missouri.

Attended a conference at Vandalia, Missouri, wherein the officials of the City of Vandalia, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and the Vandalia Union Switchboard Company were making an investigation regarding consolidation of telephone systems.

Made an inspection of the telephone plant and service rendered the public at Morrison, Missouri.

Made an inspection of the telephone system and toll lines in the vicinity of Westphalia, Missouri, and Osage, Missouri.

Attended telephone hearings at Lexington, Missouri.

Attended all hearings held in the office of the Commission in Jefferson City wherein transmission line companies ask permission to build and where telephone companies' rights are involved.

As Special Examiner held hearings in six cases.

Attended hearing held in the office of the Commission in Jefferson City, Missouri, and gave such testimony or assistance as was required in fourteen cases.

Attended conferences with officials of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, application to increase rates at St. Louis, Missouri.

Attended conferences with President of the King City Telephone Company.

Attended conferences with officials of the Fortuna Telephone Company.

A number of cases have occurred where the consolidation of two or more competing exchanges in one particular locality has been made, the most notable case being the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company purchasing the property of the Kinloch Company and the consolidation of the exchanges at St. Louis, Missouri, Sedalia, Missouri, and other points in the state being made at this time.

The Commission has also received requests from members of city councils, commercial clubs and other civic organizations, asking that it compel the consolidation of the different companies furnishing telephone service in the particular localities, and while the Commission has used every endeavor to assist in bringing such consolidations about by appearing at conferences and acting as arbitrator, it is without power to order such consolidations.

The subject of increasing toll facilities at places where insufficient service is given has been taken up in number of instances, the most particular one being the ordering of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company to construct a toll line from Springfield, Missouri, to Buffalo, Missouri, and at a cost of about \$20,000.00.

During the period covered by this report 199 formal cases and 365 informal cases were disposed of by the department.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

The Transportation Department of the Public Service Commission has general supervision over railroads, street railways, interurban lines, express and sleeping car companies.

It examines into the necessity for, and the reasonableness of, changes in rates proposed by these companies, or by shippers, in connection with traffic moving wholly within the state of Missouri, renders general assistance in connection with interstate rate problems affecting the shipping public in Missouri, and handles the adjustment to complaints relative to inadequate or unsatisfactory service furnished by these companies where the Public Service Commission is empowered by statute with jurisdiction.

As to rates, both freight and passenger, the statutes require that all tariffs and supplements to tariffs, all time tables, rules and instructions, and contracts between carriers be filed with this Commission. This Department handles all of these files and examines into all proposed changes that may affect the shipping public.

Since the last published report, there has been an exceptionally large number of tariffs and supplements to tariffs filed with the Commission, containing changes in freight and passenger rates, particularly as to freight rates. The average number of tariffs and supplements thereto received and filed during this period has been about three hundred and fifty per month.

There were one hundred fifty-five informal complaints handled by this Department during the report year 1923, and there have been one hundred eighteen informal complaints handled by this Department during the first ten months of 1924, only eight of these informal complaints being unadjusted at this time.

These informal complaints were many and varied. They involved requests for reparation, because of unreasonable rates being assessed, over-charges due to improper tariff interpretation and revision; complaints as to train service and facilities; the establishment of agencies at certain points on the carrier's lines; repairs to station buildings; lighting of station buildings and platforms; the construction or improvement of stock yards, loading platforms and other facilities; inadequate express service, including the extension of the free delivery and pick-up limits at certain points; complaints as to the inability of the carriers to furnish cars promptly for live stock and other classes of freight; and arranging for special passenger rates and train service for conventions, fairs, etc.

The mileage of railroads operating in the state is as follows:

	<i>Miles.</i>
Steam roads.....	8,577.65
Electric roads.....	908.92
Total.....	9,486.67

IMPORTANT RATE CASES.

Since the last published report there have been handled before the Missouri Public Service Commission and before the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington, D. C., cases involving freight rates between points in Missouri and between points in Missouri and points in other states on class freight and upon heavy moving commodities. A few of the more important of these cases will be outlined in this report.

CLASS RATES.

The carriers operating between Mississippi River points, St. Louis to Quincy, inclusive, and Missouri River points, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Missouri, and Atchison, Kansas, filed tariffs on February 15th, 1924, advancing the local second, third, fourth class rates between the rivers, 4½c, 7c, and 3c per 100 pounds, respectively.

Upon protest of interested cities, this Commission suspended the intra-state application of these increased rates and in Case No. 3923 conducted hearings in regard to the reasonableness of the advances. On May 21st, 1924, the Commission rendered its decision finding the advances not justified and the carriers have continued to collect upon the old basis of rates, in connection with intra-state shipments to date.

Early in March, 1924, the Commission's attention was called to the desire, on the part of the carriers serving southern Missouri, to adjust to one basis all class rates then in existence in that territory. A conference between the carriers and the shippers was first called for nine a. m., Monday, March 24th, 1924, but was postponed to ten a. m., April 22nd, 1924. However, the carriers submitted to interested shippers a statement of all proposed changes in rates in calling the conference, so that the shippers and this Department had opportunity to examine into the subject. This conference indicated the existence of considerable friction between distributing points in Missouri as to competitive rate preferences, etc. No definite agreement was reached between the shippers and the carriers at the conference.

Southwestern Freight Bureau Docket Bulletin No. 245 of May 24th, 1924, published the proposal of the carriers, and the carriers in southern Missouri filed tariffs generally effective October 31st, 1924, establishing a scale of class rates for that portion of southern Missouri which is south of the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, St. Louis to Labadie, south of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway Company, Labadie to the intersection of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad Company west of Holden, south of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad from that point to the Kansas state line, near West Line, Missouri. The increases in the scale proposed over the Class B scale previously in force averaged 19 per cent of all less than carload freight, some increases being as high as 24 per cent. The increases in the carload classes averaged 3.3 per cent, the increase in fifth class being 7 per cent, Class A, 8.1 per cent, Class D 10.1 per cent, with a reduction in Class B of 8.4 per cent.

The carriers also proposed to cancel all jobbing rates that are lower than the scale proposed and the average increases in the jobbing rates on less carload freight will be from 35 per cent to 40 per cent.

Upon protests from numerous shippers this Commission suspended these rates from going into effect and joined with the shippers in requesting the Interstate Commerce Commission to suspend the interstate application of the scale which effort was successful and the matter is now set down for hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Missouri Commission for December 16th, 1924, at Kansas City.

The carriers in Central Freight Association territory on October 15th, 1924, published a statement of proposed class rates which they considered reasonable to be applied between Central Freight Association territory on the one hand and Western Trunk Line and New England territories on the other hand, this proposal being in connection with an investigation started by the Interstate Commerce Commission, their Docket No. 15879. In this proposal of the eastern carriers the rates from New York to East St. Louis are changed as follows:

<i>Class:</i>	1	2	3	4	5	6
Present.....	166	145½	110½	77	66	55½
Proposed.....	188½	160	126½	94½	66	53

there being similar general increases proposed from Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, Rochester, and other eastern points to East

St. Louis, which proposed changes will materially increase the shipping costs between points in Missouri and points in Central Freight Association, Eastern Trunk Line and New England territories, this increase being about 25 per cent for the reason that the rates to points in Missouri are made upon a combination over the Mississippi River junctions.

A conference of shippers and carriers was had on this subject at Chicago, November 13th, 1924, attended by a representative of this Department, the shippers unanimously protesting against the increases proposed by the carriers in curing the situations complained of by certain eastern shippers alleging discrimination and violations of the 4th Section of the Interstate Commerce Commission Act. This Department will take an active part in the preparation of evidence for use in these proceedings before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The carriers in Western Trunk Line territory are also proposing adjustments in the class rates between Chicago, and basing points, to the eastern trunk line territory and destinations in the eastern portion of that territory. The increases proposed by the carriers are very large, particularly as to third and fourth class rates. The rates proposed would mean material increases in shipping costs between Chicago and points in northern Missouri, between the Twin Cities and points in Missouri, etc. A conference between the carriers and shippers in connection with this proposed adjustment was had at Chicago November 24th, 1924. Shippers are vigorously protesting the increases proposed in making this adjustment and this Department will take active interest in preparing evidence in these proceedings with a view of preventing any increases in shipping costs to Missouri interests.

GRAIN RATES.

At page 68 of this Commission's printed report for the years ending November 30th, 1921, and September 30th, 1922, a short statement was made in regard to a proceeding instituted before the Interstate Commerce Commission, as a result of which the rates on wheat, including commodities basing thereon, were reduced approximately 13 per cent, and coarse grains, including corn, oats, etc., and commodities basing thereon, were established on a basis 90 per cent of the wheat rate. At the time of preparing that report, the carriers had petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission for authority to remove the coarse grain differential and place coarse grain up to the wheat rates.

These proceedings originated on July 7th, 1921, when the western grain states, supporting the Kansas Public Utilities Commission, petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission asking that an investigation be made into the reasonableness of the rates on grain and grain products. On July 14th, 1921, the Interstate Commerce Commission ordered an investigation on its own motion and set the subject for hearing at Washington, D. C., August 15th, 1921. The several state commissions had a conference at Chicago July 20th, 1921, at which conference this Commission was represented by the chief of its transportation department, who was chosen chairman of the rate committee to prepare exhibits and evidence for presentation to the Interstate Commerce Commission at the hearing in August. This Commission then issued a notice on July 28th, 1921, to take testimony on August 5th, 1921, in regard to the interstate rates on grain, grain products, and hay, this notice being served on all the carriers in Missouri and upon interested shippers. Considerable testimony was taken at this Commission's hearing on August 5th, there being numerous farmers and representatives of grain interests present.

The Commission and its transportation department took a very active part in the evidence offered at the hearing, which lasted from August 15th to September 1st, 1921, oral argument being had on September 2nd and 3rd, the case being decided on October 20th, 1921, the Interstate Commerce Commission stating in part:

"We find that the present rates on wheat and hay involved herein will be for the future unjust and unreasonable to the extent that they may individually include more than one-half of the increases authorized in Ex parte 74. We further find that the present rates on coarse grains will be for the future unjust and unreasonable to the extent that they may exceed rates 10 per cent less than those herein prescribed as just and reasonable on wheat from and to the same points. * * * * * We further find that the rates on commodities recognized as products of the above commodities will be for the future unjust and unreasonable to the extent that they exceed rates that would be made by continuing the relationships that now exist, except that where differentials are observed and where subjected to the percentage increases the differentials should be reduced proportionately with the rates. * * * * * An order will be

entered in accordance with our findings if that becomes necessary. We shall expect the reductions to be made as soon as practicable and not later than November 20th, 1921." (64 I. C. C. 85).

Following this decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission the carriers appeared dissatisfied with the report entered and a conference between railroad executives and the Interstate Commerce Commission was had at Washington, D. C., November 12th, 1921. On November 16th, 1921, T. DeWitt Cuyler, Chairman of the Association of Railroad Executives, gave out the following statement:

"The executives of the railroads of the United States today determined to make for a period of six months an immediate reduction of 10 per cent in carload freight rate on farm products. Any reductions in such rates made since September 1, 1920, to be constituted a part of such 10 per cent. * * * * (Traffic World, 11-19-21, page 1045.) An application to the Interstate Commerce Commission for a rehearing of the hay and grain case and meanwhile for a general inquiry by the Commission * *, etc."

On November 21st, 1921, the Interstate Commerce Commission entered its order requiring the carriers to make effective on not less than five days' notice, on or before December 27th, 1921, the rates advised by it in its findings of October 20th.

On November 23rd, the Interstate Commerce Commission entered its order instituting an investigation to "determine whether and to what extent, if any, further general reductions in the rates, fares and charges of carriers * * * * can lawfully be required." (Docket 13293.)

On November 29th, the Interstate Commerce Commission amended its general investigation order of November 23rd as follows: "and also to determine what will constitute a fair return from and after March 1, 1922," etc.

On December 16th, 1921, the Interstate Commerce Commission denied the petition of carriers for a rehearing in the grain rate case, argued December 14th.

On April 3rd, 1922, the Interstate Commerce Commission re-opened Docket 12929, the earlier grain case, "for such further hearing as the Commission may hereafter direct, on the question

of the relationship of the rates on wheat and other grains, and the products thereof, between points in the Mountain-Pacific group. * * * * * that the order entered in this proceeding on November 21st, 1921, as subsequently modified shall remain in full force and effect."

The carriers in the western group which included Missouri then filed a petition with the Interstate Commerce Commission on May 5th, 1922, for a modification of the order in Docket 12929, asking the elimination of the coarse grain differentials, purposed to increase the coarse grain rates to the wheat basis. Immediately following this proposal the Western states called a conference at Kansas City on May 17th, at which the Commission was represented by a member of the Commission and the chief of its transportation department. This conference resulted in a petition being filed on May 22nd, 1922, with the Interstate Commerce Commission, signed by the chairmen of railroad and public service commissions of nine states, including Missouri, praying that the petition of the carriers for re-opening the grain case be denied.

However, the Interstate Commerce Commission, on July 5th, 1922, re-opened the grain case for the purpose of further consideration of the coarse grain differential situation in the western group of states.

The same committees that managed and prepared the statistics in the original grain case were continued in connection with the coarse grain differential proceedings, in the preparation of evidence and the presentation thereof, the chief of this Commission's transportation department being chairman of that committee.

The committee met at St. Paul, Minn., on July 21st, 1922, and plans for presenting the protestants' case were formulated. The Missouri Commission was represented at this meeting by the chief of its transportation department, who was also chairman of the rate committee.

On October 9th to 13th, inclusive, hearing was had before an examiner of the Interstate Commerce Commission at Des Moines, Iowa, and the case was argued at Washington, D. C., on April 14th, and decided by the Interstate Commerce Commission on June 4th, 1923, the Commission saying in part:

"Upon the facts presented by the whole record, we are not persuaded that the relationship between the rates on wheat and coarse grains and their products, prescribed in

our previous findings herein, was or is improper as applied to the Western Group, except as we have heretofore modified it by the exclusion of Illinois territory." (80 I. C. C. 362.)

After the decision in the grain case, on October 20th, 1921, the Interstate Commerce Commission entered into a general investigation as to all freight rates and after hearings issued an order requiring a 10 per cent general reduction in all freight rates, which reduction took effect on July 1st, 1922.

This reduction, however, was not applied to grain and the Western states felt that this further 10 per cent reduction should have been applied to grain. Therefore, on September 9th, 1922, a complaint was filed by the Kansas Public Utilities Commission with the Interstate Commerce Commission, asking for application of the 10 per cent general reduction to grain and grain products, copy being sent to each of the nine Western states with the request that they intervene, and calling a conference to be held at Kansas City on September 20th to discuss the preparation of evidence in connection with such complaint.

This Commission immediately wired the Kansas Commission that it would participate in the conference and was represented at the conference by its chairman and the chief of the transportation department. The same managing and statistical committee took charge of the preparation of evidence, that had handled the earlier cases. The result of the conference of the states was to the effect that: "The case will be handled on the same general lines of last year. More definite information will be given to the various commissions as to what is expected of them in the way of testimony as early as practicable."

Hearing was had before the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington, D. C., December 11th to 16th, inclusive, It was then adjourned to Kansas City for February 13th, 1923, and that hearing continued until March 1st, 1923, the Western states presenting evidence and testimony as desired by the managing and statistical committee.

Briefs were filed April 10th, 1923, and oral argument was had at Washington, D. C., May 11th. The case was decided by the Interstate Commerce Commission October 11th, 1923, that decision containing the following:

"This record affords no basis even for a suggestion as to a reallocation of the transportation burden, nor could we in fairness to the shippers of other commodities make such

readjustment without giving them opportunity to be heard.
 * * * * * It is desirable that the existing records be supplemented by a showing as to the important changes in conditions which have since occurred, * * * * * without indicating views as to the final disposition of the matter, the case will be re-opened and set for further hearing to give interested parties an opportunity to develop the foregoing and other pertinent matters, and we will enter an order to that effect."

These proceedings were then merged with Case No. 15263, "In the matter of rates and charges on grain and grain products," and further hearings had at various cities representing districts of the United States as follows:

Minneapolis, Minnesota.....	Nov. 26th, 1923
Chicago, Illinois.....	Jan. 15th, 1924
Washington, D. C.....	Jan. 21st, 1924
Kansas City, Missouri.....	Jan. 31st, 1924

These proceedings were decided by the Interstate Commerce Commission on July 10th, 1924, reported at 91 I. C. C. 105. The Interstate Commerce Commission decided that no further reductions in grain rates should be made at that time.

LIVE STOCK RATES: HOG MINIMUM CASES.

As a result of rather general complaints from shipping associations in the Middle West as to the carload minimum weight of seventeen thousand pounds per car applied by the railroads to shipments of hogs in standard cars, thirty-six feet in length, the Interstate Commerce Commission instituted an investigation as to the lawfulness and propriety of the minimum weights applicable to hogs in carload lots. This was Docket No. 14491, "Minimum carload weights on hogs in Missouri and other states." A conference was called of all interested states at Omaha, Nebraska, January 16th, 1923, there being present representatives of Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Kansas, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Missouri.

At that meeting Judge J. H. Henderson of the Iowa Board of Railroad Commissioners was selected as chairman of a committee to prepare and introduce testimony before the Interstate Commerce Commission on behalf of the states.

The subject was set for hearing at the Elms Hotel, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, March 20th, 1923, before Commissioner Lewis of the Interstate Commerce Commission. This Commission prepared and presented numerous exhibits with all testimony seeking to show that the then existing minimum weight of seventeen thousand pounds was too heavy and resulted in animals becoming crippled and losing excessive weight because of crowding.

The case was decided on July 9th, 1923, the Interstate Commerce Commission finding "Upon consideration of all the facts and circumstances we are of the opinion and find that the minimum weights maintained by respondents on hogs for slaughter will be unreasonable for the future to the extent that they may exceed the minimum weights set forth in the * * * * (below) table, except that on single-deck cars the minimum weights will be unreasonable for the future to the extent that they may exceed the minimum weights indicated in the said table reduced in each instance by 500 pounds."

Said table follows:

For cars of length.	Hogs (single deck), pounds.	Hogs (double deck), pounds.
36 feet 7 inches and less.....	17,000	23,000
Over 36 feet, 7 inches, to and including 40 feet.....	19,000	24,500
Over 40 feet and including 41 feet.....	19,475	25,113
Over 41 feet to and including 42 feet.....	19,950	25,725
Over 42 feet to and including 43 feet.....	20,425	26,338
Over 43 feet to and including 44 feet.....	20,900	26,950
Over 44 feet (see note).		

NOTE:—For each foot or fraction of a foot in excess of 44 feet in length add the following to the minimum weight provided for cars 44 feet long:
 On hogs in double-deck cars.....612.5 pounds
 On hogs in single-deck cars.....475 pounds

The result of this proceeding will no doubt be of material benefit to hog feeders in Missouri for many years to come. (81 I. C. C. 373.)

ROAD BUILDING MATERIALS.

Sand, Gravel, Crushed Rock, etc.

Upon complaint filed by the Missouri State Highway Commission, this Commission ordered an investigation into the rates in Missouri on road building materials, such as sand, gravel, crushed rock, etc., November 4th, 1922.

Hearings were had in Jefferson City on December 22nd, 1922, and January 18th, 1923, the case being submitted upon the evidence and a memorandum on behalf of the complainant, and was decided January 20th, 1923, the Commission prescribing a scale of maximum distance rates on these commodities lower than those previously in effect.

This case is fully reported by this Commission in Volume 13 of its reports at page 165. (13 P. S. C. 165.)

KANSAS CITY SWITCHING CASE.

On June 26th, 1924, the Kansas City Southern Railway Company filed a switching tariff with the Public Service Commission seeking to increase its reciprocal switching rates in greater Kansas City \$1.90 to \$2.05 per car.

Similar effort had been made to advance these reciprocal switching rates by the Missouri Pacific, the St. Louis-San Francisco and the Kansas City Southern in 1921 but, after suspension of these rates and hearings on the proposed schedules, the tariffs were ordered cancelled by the Interstate Commerce Commission. (68 I. C. C. 591).

The Missouri Public Service Commission and the Interstate Commerce Commission both suspended the tariffs that were filed June 26th, 1924, and joint hearing was had before the two commissions, at Kansas City, Missouri, on August 27th to 29th, 1924, and adjourned hearing on September 18th, 1924.

At the time of writing this report, this proceeding has not been decided, the Missouri Public Service Commission having suspended the tariffs for a further period of six months, and the Interstate Commerce Commission for a further period of thirty days in order that the rates as published may not go into effect before a decision is reached.

MILK AND CREAM RATES.

In April, 1924, the American Railway Express Company filed with this Commission a tariff on milk and cream and kindred commodities, seeking to establish one scale of rates applicable throughout the state, in lieu of the several scales heretofore maintained. The tariff provided for lower rates on five and eight-gallon cans, the rates being slightly higher in some instances on the ten gallon cans. The tariff also provided for joint rates where shipments move over the lines of two or more railroads, there being no such general provisions in the earlier tariffs.

Upon complaint by certain creameries this Commission suspended the tariff so far as single line rates were concerned on April 29th, 1924. Hearing was had at Jefferson City, May 9th, 1924, and a decision entered May 20th, 1924, finding that the rates contained in the tariff were justified and should be permitted to go into effect.

This proceeding results in considerably lower rates upon the five gallon cans of cream shipped by express throughout Missouri. It provides a line of joint rates so that the number of markets a certain shipper can reach is considerably larger than theretofore existed.

The scale in question is identical with the scale maintained by the express company on its interstate business and its state business in surrounding states. The Commission's decision is published in full in its reports, Volume 14. (14 P. S. C. 84).

STATE AND INTERSTATE EXPRESS RATES.

In our last published report, at page 68, we stated the Interstate Commerce Commission had opened general proceedings of investigation covering the question of express rates throughout the United States and that the various Western state commissions had appointed a committee to present necessary evidence to the Interstate Commerce Commission at a hearing set for November 20th, 1922, at Washington, D. C.

It will be remembered that before the World War there were several express companies operating in the United States, there being different express companies upon the different lines of railroad; that during the period of Federal operation of the railroads the American Railway Express Company was organized, its capital stock being distributed amongst the several express

companies theretofore operating throughout the United States, and that the new company was operated as one large transportation machine.

The different express companies, of course, had different tariffs but all their rates were predicated upon the same basis prescribed by the Interstate Commerce Commission in earlier proceedings.

The entire United States had been divided into five rate zones, and had been further divided into blocks and sub-blocks, each block being bounded by one degree of latitude and longitude and each such block being sub-divided into several sub-blocks.

The Interstate Commerce Commission fixed a general basis for determining the express charges in each of these large zones, predicated upon the number of blocks and sub-blocks traveled in such zones by a shipment.

After the termination of the Government's operation of the railroads there were numerous complaints as to the level of express rates, especially in the territory west of Chicago, it being quite generally alleged that the rates in that territory were unreasonably high as compared with the rates maintained in the eastern zones, particularly zone one, in which New York is located.

As a result of these many complaints, the Interstate Commerce Commission instituted an investigation, upon its own motion, as to the lawfulness and propriety of express rates in all parts of the United States, particularly of the rates applicable in each of the several zones, in and of themselves and as related one to the other.

Missouri is located in zone three but during a number of years past has enjoyed the same rates as zone two, with the exception of the southern tier of counties which has remained in zone three.

A committee of representatives of the Western state commissions was formed to prepare and present testimony for submission to the Interstate Commerce Commission, seeking to secure an adjustment downward of the rates in this territory.

Hearings were had at Washington, D. C., three state commissioners sitting with the Interstate Commerce Commission, and a representative of the Western states sitting with the Interstate Commerce Commission examiner for the purpose of assisting in the preparation of the proposed report by the Interstate Commerce Commission under the co-operative plan in

effect between the Interstate Commerce Commission and the several state commissions.

The Interstate Commerce Commission issued its order on May 17th, 1924, requiring reductions in zone three territory which were estimated to amount to something between eleven and thirteen per cent but, on account of a large portion of the state of Missouri having formerly enjoyed the rates applicable to zone two, the reduction for the state of Missouri, in all except the southern tier of counties, will not be so great as for zone three, generally, but the state of Missouri did secure a considerable amount of reduction in its express carrying costs under this decision.

The Express Company asked for re-hearing and for postponement of the effective date of the order. As the proceeding now stands, the Commission's order of May 17th, 1924, will go into effect March 1st, 1925. (88 I. C. C. 606.)

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSION.

The Commission has to date issued thirteen bound volumes of its regular Reports (Mo. P. S. C.). Volume XIV is now being printed and will be ready for distribution within a short time. In addition to the Reports, the Commission has compiled and published a Digest of the first eleven volumes of the Reports. This Digest (one volume) is divided into two parts: (1) a digest of cases reported; and (2) the Missouri Public Service Commission Law. Both the digest of decisions and reports, and the digest of the Law are annotated.

The Commission includes in these Reports the formal cases only. A great number of cases are docketed "informal cases," and in these cases an order only is issued. These cases are not included in the Reports, but are found in the Annual and Biennial Reports which have been issued. Many other matters are treated through correspondence, general orders, conference rulings and by the several departments in the regular course of business, and are disposed of to the satisfaction of the Commission without being placed on the docket.

The system adopted by the Commission in editing and digesting the cases for the Reports is designed to make every topic and point of the Commission's decisions accessible to attorneys, technicians and laymen, by the minimum amount of effort and time compatible with accuracy. To this end each decision is titled, head-noted, credited as to authorship, and bears the

docket number and formal appearances entered. In those cases reported in Volumes of the Reports issued subsequent to the Digest (which covers the first eleven volumes), each head-note gives a reference to the corresponding topic in the Digest, if there have been prior decisions treating that topic. The latter feature is also followed in the topical index of each volume, which index, together with the indices showing cases reported, cases cited and localities affected, forms a thorough research guide. Each volume contains as an additional aid to research, tables showing the court cases pending and decided, wherein the Commission is a proper party. Advance Sheets are issued from time to time, that those interested in the decisions of the Commission may not be delayed or inconvenienced.

The value of these Reports is evidenced by the subscription list, on which are found attorneys, engineers, accountants, financial institutions, chambers of commerce, and some of our greatest educational institutions.

A charge of \$2.50 per volume, including Advance Sheets as issued, prepaid—being a nominal charge based on the cost of publication—is made for these Reports. Separate Advance Sheets are sold for 35 cents each, but there is no reduction in the price of the Bound Volumes without the Advance Sheets.

FEES COLLECTED.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 21 of the Public Service Commission Law, being Section 10430 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, 1919, this Commission has collected and paid into the State Treasury since October, 1922, the following:

October, November and December, 1922.....	\$39,499.95
For the year 1923.....	28,536.41
For the first eleven months of 1924.....	72,521.46

Making a total of..... \$140,557.82

T. J. BROWN, Chairman,
EDWIN J. BEAN,
A. J. O'REILLY,
RICHARD H. MUSSER,
Commissioners.